



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser N097/03177
20 Jun 03

Dear Colleagues,

On June 17, 2003, the United States Senate announced my selection as the 62nd Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. While I am grateful to the U.S. Senate for being so honored, this appointment also speaks well of the Navy Chaplain Corps I proudly represent. Ours is an institution whose members are dedicated to service and committed to the principle of cooperative ministry. For 27 years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work side-by-side with ministers, priests, rabbis, and imams.

At this moment of transition, I extend to you, chaplains and RPs alike, my gratitude for your sacrificial service in support of your spiritual calling. During the past three years, chaplains and RPs responded to unprecedented national emergencies and deployed worldwide to support the war on terrorism. Our nation saw firsthand dramatic evidence of how Navy chaplains, supported by RPs, provide pastoral care in the aftermath of tragedy and serve with distinction on the front lines. Your efforts confirmed to senior military and civilian leaders the critical importance of the highest quality religious ministry to men and women in harm's way. Consequently, through your indefatigable devotion to duty, the influence of this Navy Chief of Chaplains was extended well beyond the Department of the Navy; a portion of this honor certainly belongs to each of you.

I move on with heartfelt gratitude. I go also with supreme confidence that you will maintain the self-sacrificing legacy of our chaplain and RP forbears. May God grant Chaplain Iasiello a full measure of blessing as he assumes the mantle of leadership. I know that under his direction you will continue to exercise faithful stewardship over the riches of God's grace. Thank you for your prayers and support these past three years. Please know that Brenda and I will continue to remember you in our prayers. We will follow with great interest the extraordinary deeds we know God will continue to work through you

In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry C. Black".

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, Chaplain Corps
U. S. Navy
Chief of Navy Chaplains